

Home Club Puts Interior Department on Social Map

Go and Maxie Get Semi-Official Sanction of Uncle Sam in Organization Fath-ered by Secretary Lane.

The tango, the maxie, the hesi-tant waltz, and other dances like them have received the semi-offi-cial sanction of Uncle Sam. They are not only to be permitted, but encouraged in the Home Club of the Interior Department.

But the dancing innovation is only one of the new activities of the unique club. Founded at the suggestion of Secretary Franklin Lane, the organization in the first six weeks of its existence has thor-oughly established itself.

Under a new system of chaperon-age, the department clerks of the interior are going to enter the so-



their tango parties have become very popular.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

whirl with a vengeance. A gymnasium and bowling alley are planned. The activities and plans of this club form an interesting new chapter of the Capital's social life.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

At the Home Club of the Interior Department any afternoon between 5 and 6 o'clock and you will find about 30 Government clerks, of various ages, tripping through the crocheting steps of the newest craze, to the strains of the latest ragtime music.

Had you arrived a little earlier you might have interrupted a tea given by a wife or a daughter of some official of the department. The crocheting and the latest social gossip. And in another corner of the club bridge enthusiasts would be found in the throes of a club tournament.

"Society" still may be confined to diplomatic and fashionable circles in

the minds of lay observers. But the Home Club already has put the Government department on the social map. And the club has just made a start.

A little later in the season you will find officials and clerks of the Interior joining in gymnasium classes, and knocking down the pins on the alleys the club is planning to install. If any of the rich men's clubs about the city will "have anything on" the department's organization, the clerks want to know about it.

Lane Suggests Innovations.

This innovation came about through the suggestion of Secretary Franklin K. Lane. A man who holds the long-distance record for hard labor and long hours in Washington official

AND THEN IT SERVES AS A RESTING PLACE FOR ALL THE DEPARTMENTS

life, and whose life work has been connected with such intricate problems as those confronting the Interstate Commerce Commission, might not be regarded as a social innovator of the first water. But that idea is all wrong; for the Home Club is one of the pet schemes of the Secretary. Far from looking with displeasure upon these seeming frivolities of his clerks he regards the club as one of his most successful ventures since he took over the department's direction.

The idea came to the Secretary

when he was traveling through the West preaching the spirit of co-operation among the department's employees in the field. It occurred to him that back in Washington there was no central meeting place for the widely scattered forces of his vast organization.

Given such an impetus the idea went through with a rush, and at the house warming on February 28 the Secretary and Mrs. Lane appeared in the receiving line. And the Secretary accepted the office of president of the club. Despite his immensely busy days—and nights—with the problems of the most comprehensive department in the Government, he finds time for the actual administrative duties of the club.

For one thing the club acts as a society for the suppression of snobbery. From the Secretary and Mrs. Lane down, the employees and families of the Home Club are on the same social footing when they enter the precincts of the comfortable, commodious club at 13 Jackson place, which bears the strongest sort of suggestion of its name.

So far as the Interior Department has been concerned the problem of the "tired Government clerk," Washington's equivalent of the "tired business man" of other cities, has been solved. The entertainments at the Home Club are not all "they" have. But twice a week a lecture, generally by some expert in the department itself, is given. These talks are illustrated.

Address By "Buffalo Bill."

The list of visiting speakers has ranged from Colonel Cody, "Buffalo Bill," with his pictures of Indian fights, to Secretary of the Navy Daniels, with a lecture on Uncle Sam's sea fighters. The department also affords a wide variety of amateur entertainers, from a ventriloquist, a sleight of hand man, formerly on the professional stage, to three Hawaiians, who sang their native songs in costumes of their land, and amateur actors who later will give a play.

An entertainment of some sort is provided for each evening, except

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Sunday, and there is dancing also every evening. That is where the chaperone enters the game. Only the committee prefers to call her "hostess." One of these hostesses is provided for each evening, and she is held responsible for the entertainment, for the introduction of all guests to each other, and for the general conduct of the dancers.

Has 1,725 Members.

The club is conducted under the direction of four officers and a board of trustees. Besides President Lane, the officers are Van H. Manning, vice president; Harry L. Underwood, secretary, and A. H. Thompson, treasurer. The trustees are Miss Helen Hardin, W. S. Duffenbaugh, J. T. Newton, W. A. Ryan, Miss Fanny S. Peter, David Neumann, E. Ayres, George S. Pope, and John McPhaul. Mr. Manning also is chairman of the house committee, C. H. Blanchard, of the entertainment committee, E. C. Tiedman, of the membership committee, and Miss Julia L. V. McLeod, of the library committee.

Thirty New Prophets Cross Burning Sands

Kallipolis Grotto, No. 15, Mystic Order of the Velled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, has thirty new members today, following the "All Fools' Ceremonial" held last night at Odd Fellows' Hall, when that number found the way across the burning sands. Delegates from Richmond, Baltimore and Colonial Beach, were present. Washington grotto is extended an invitation from the Richmond delegates to attend the Grand Council to be held in the VITTOX capital June 8, 9 and 10. Monarch Peter R. Pullman took charge of the ceremonies last night.

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